



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

North Phoenix Regional Council

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council of the – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on May 12, 2009 at 4:30p.m. at the Washington Elementary School District Office, 4650 West Sweetwater, Glendale, AZ 85304.

Members Present:

Bill Adams, Sally Downing, Dr. Elaine Ellis, Gina Montes, James Emch, Jenna Goad, Mindy Zapata, Karyn Parker, Connie Robinson.

Absent:

None.

Call to Order

North Phoenix, Chairman Bill Adams welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 4:35 p.m.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Member Emch to approve the April 14, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Council Member Ellis, the motion carried.

Warm Line Discussion with Southwest Human Development

Chairman Adams introduced Dr. Alison Steier and Ginger Ward from Southwest Human Development (SWHD). Ms. Ward introduced Robin Velasquez the new Outreach Coordinator for SWHD.

Ms. Ward explained when SWHD first began researching telephone help lines they found very few available and no warm lines were available at all. Additionally, there were not many phone numbers in the resource books which prompted the birth to five helpline. Dr. Steier provided the following information regarding the help line:

- Program has been in place for three years.
- They help parents deal with issues of the moment.
- They receive 12-13 calls a day, largely about child development and some child health issues.
- Average length of call is 21 minutes. Fussy baby calls are a bit longer.
- Callers are offered a home visit.
- They receive calls from professionals and are trying to get day care professionals and preschool teachers to call as well.
- Majority of calls are from the Phoenix area.
- Callers like the accessibility and confidentiality of the help lines.

- The first point of contact is a bilingual staff member that dispatches the call to the helpline or the fussy baby line.
- Staff reactions are good, slow, thoughtful and calm.
- Geographic information for the North Region is available.
- They have growing knowledge of other resources throughout the state.
- They are conducting a lot of outreach and partnering around the state.
- They are funded to conduct outreach in the entire state.
- Calls will increase when Robin conducts outreach throughout the state.
- They welcome ideas for intensive outreach efforts.

Dr. Steier explained the helpline is not a crisis line. There are other crisis lines available to callers. Unfortunately no one number can be everything to everybody.

Chairman Adams thanked the staff from SWHD for their presentation. This topic will be continued for further discussion at the next Council meeting. There is additional community asset information that the Council has requested for the Regional Coordinator to obtain prior to the Council finalizing this discussion.

Discussion and Review of Conflict of Interest, Regional Partnership Council's Role and the Review Team

Regional Coordinator Brenda Tomlin introduced FTF Finance staff Russell Spencer, Tony Zabicki and Dana Browning. Mr. Spencer explained the review committee's role, the Council's role and executive session. Mr. Spencer referred to this process as the "tier process". The Council is the most important part of the tier in determining approval or decline of recommended grant applications to complete services for the Council's identified strategies. Mr. Spencer reminded the Council they would need to recuse themselves from any part of the funding discussion if there was a conflict of interest, such as monetary gain or influencing a decision and they should portray fairness.

Discussion and Possible Motion to Approve Early Literacy Grant Recommendations

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1), A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2) and A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3), Chairman Adams notified the Regional Council they would be voting to enter into Executive Session, which was not open to the public, to discuss personnel items, records exempt from public inspection, or obtain legal advice regarding any matter on this agenda.

Chairman Adams reminded the Council and the public only those non- Council Members reasonably necessary to the Executive Session discussion may attend the Executive Session. All others should leave the room after the motion and vote. All materials, including brief cases, should be removed from the conference room.

Matters discussed in Executive Session must be kept confidential by those attending pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (C), except in some very limited circumstances, such as in the course of an Open Meeting Law investigation by the Attorney General or County Attorney. Chairman Adams reminded Council Members and staff the Executive Session is subject to the provision of the Open Meeting Law. Chairman Adams asked if there were any Council Members who had a conflict of interest to please state so immediately.

Council Member Parker stated for the record she had a conflict of interest because she works for one of the organizations that have an application specific to early literacy.

Council Member Zapata stated for the record she had a conflict of interest because she works for one of the organizations that have an application specific to early literacy.

Chairman Adams called for a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (A) (2), for purposes of; Agenda Item #5 – Discussion of Confidential Information Regarding Early Literacy Grant Awards for the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Downing to move into Executive Session pursuant to ARS 38-431.03 (A) (2), for purposes of; Agenda Item #5 – Discussion of Confidential Information Regarding Early Literacy Grant Awards for the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council. Council Member Robinson seconded the motion and the motion passed. Executive Session was entered into at 5:17 p.m.

Chairman Adams called for a motion to close Executive Session. Council Member Goad moved to close Executive Session. Seconded by Council Member Robinson, the motion passed. Executive Session was closed at 5:42 p.m.

Council Member Montes moved to approve the recommendations of the Review Committee to include those specific agencies recommended in the amounts recommended by the Committee. Seconded by Vice Chair Downing, the motion carried.

Chairman Adams called for a five minute recess at 5:45 p.m. The Council meeting resumed at 5:51 p.m.

Discussion and Possible Motion to Approve Family, Friend, and Neighbor Professional Development Strategy

Coordinator Tomlin introduced FTF Policy and Research staff member Alicia Smith to discuss the Family, Friend, and Neighbor Professional Development Strategy. Ms. Smith discussed the innovative grant and the purpose of these grants were to “fill gaps” in service as identified by the community providers who proposed them. She stated in response to the statewide innovative grant process that occurred last fall, the State Board voted and approved a proposal submitted by the Association for Supportive Child Care of Arizona (ASCC) to enhance the statewide infrastructure for their “Arizona Kith and Kin Project” which would allow them to provide a series of traditional training and support classes to “Kith and Kin” care providers in various parts of the state. ASCC’s proposal identified the program will consist of 14 weeks of training/support, at two hours each session, with seven core training topics per training cohort. They also provide child care and transportation. In the statewide competitive grant ASCC also proposed funding for a pilot home visiting program in the “rural” areas (Yuma and Coconino have been identified). Their program will support up to 375 participants, 300 in the “regular” training classes within Maricopa County and 75 in the “rural” pilot project for Flagstaff and Yuma.

For the past several months, the Regional Councils have been working on their strategies utilizing cross-regional workgroups. Regional staff, policy staff and community experts have been meeting together to develop a document that details “Standards of Practice” for this service, along with a potential scope of work to create an RFGA. There are elements that are included in this developed Standards of Practice that potentially go beyond what was identified in the ASCC proposal for the statewide grant.

Based on the new statewide contract, the North Phoenix Region can either continue to move forward in developing an RFGA for the provision of family, friend and neighbor professional development or request to amend the current statewide contract with ASCC, allowing them to provide additional training and support services to these providers located in the North Phoenix Region using the methodology that was identified in their statewide grant. Additional pros and cons to these options were discussed at length by the Council.

Council Member Goad moved the Council continue with the RFGA as identified. Council Member Robinson seconded, motion carried with a 6 to 2 vote.

Election of Chairs

According to the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council’s governing policies, nomination and voting for the Chair and Vice Chair position are to occur during the first Council meeting held after the first of May. The elected positions will then take effect beginning July 2009 and will be in effect for the entire fiscal year. The North Phoenix Regional Council has the option to conduct their nomination/vote via a ballot or through an oral election. Council members stated they were comfortable completing an oral vote. The current chair and vice chair were requested to tell the Council about their experience over the past year and to confirm for the Council their interest in continuing in the positions for another year.

Council Member Montes made a motion to nominate Bill Adams as Chair and Sally Downing as Vice Chair of the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council for fiscal year 2010. Council Member Goad seconded, motion carried.

Council Member Appreciations

Chairman Adams and Regional Coordinator Tomlin handed out flowers and certificates of appreciation to the Council members in recognition of their hard work and commitment to the North Region during the past year. Executive Director Elliott Hibbs presented an FTF pin to each member in appreciation of their work.

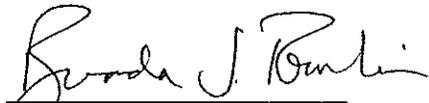
Call to the Public

Chairman Adams made a call to the public. There were no requests to address the Council.

Adjournment

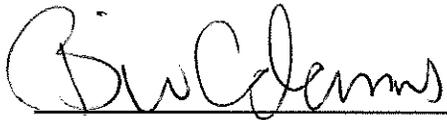
There being no further business Chairman Adams adjourned the North Phoenix Regional Council Meeting at 6:48p.m. A motion was made by Council Member Robinson. Seconded by Council Member Emch, motion carried.

SUBMITTED BY:



Brenda Tomlin, North Phoenix Regional Council Coordinator

Approved:



Bill Adams, North Phoenix Regional Council Chair